

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMBUR 00153 061228Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 /065 W

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O R 061144Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3685

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJECT: CDU CANDIDATE ERNST ALBRECHT ELECTED MINISTER-
PRESIDENT OF LOWER SAXONY

1. ERNST ALBRECHT, THE CDU CANDIDATE FOR MINISTER-
PRESIDENT OF LOWER SAXONY, WON A DRAMATIC ELECTORAL
VICTORY OVER HIS SPD/FDP COALITION OPPONENT DR. KARL
RAVENS, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
CONSTRUCTION AND URBAN PLANNING IN THE BONN COALITION
GOVERNMENT. ALBRECHT RECEIVED A MAJORITY SUPPORT OF
79 VOTES OVER THE 75 VOTES WHICH RAVENS RECEIVED. ONE
OF THE VOTES CAST WAS DECLARED VOID.

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THE COMPOSI-
TION OF THE CDU GOVERNMENT IN LOWER SAXONY, WE KNOW FROM
OUR DISCUSSIONS IN HANNOVER LAST WEEK WITH WILFRIED
HASSELMANN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CDU IN THE STATE, THAT
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PAGE 02 HAMBUR 00153 061228Z

ALBRECHT MAY OFFER THREE OR EVEN FOUR CABINET POSITIONS

TO THE FDP, HOPING TO FORM A CDU/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT THERE. WHETHER ALBRECHT WILL SUCCEED IN ENTICING THE FDP INTO SUCH A COALITION IS, WE BELIEVE, AT THIS JUNCTURE EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL.

3. THE CDU ELECTORAL VICTORY NOW CONFIRMS THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE BUNDESRAT WILL GIVE THE CDU AN 11-SEAT ADVANTAGE OVER THE SPD/FDP. THE CDU WILL NOW HAVE 26 SEATS AND THE SPD/FDP COALITION WILL HAVE 15 SEATS IN THAT BODY.

4. AS YET IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ALBRECHT VICTORY AS IT MIGHT AFFECT THE BUNDESRAT VOTE ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE POLISH TREATIES. WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT ALBRECHT HAS REFRAINED FROM EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE POLISH TREATY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. OBVIOUSLY HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS POSTURE UNTIL AFTER HIS EXPECTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FDP ON THE FORMATION OF A POSSIBLE FORMAL COALITION, OR CASE BY CASE COOPERATION WITH THE FDP IN HANNOVER. BROGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HAMBUR00153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0011
From: HAMBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760275/aaaacnyl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <01 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CDU CANDIDATE ERNST ALBRECHT ELECTED MINISTER- PRESIDENT OF LOWER SAXONY
TAGS: PINT, GE, CDU, (ALBRECHT, ERNST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006